

NLK-78-662

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Berlin

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McGB

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A Sovietologist for whom I have the greatest respect and who has served in Germany called me today, greatly concerned at what he called the growing demoralization on both sides of the Berlin line. Seeing an urgent need to raise morale, he suggested getting some highly respected personality, e.g. ex-President Heuss, to go on the radio and propose "a day of German unity" in response to Ulbricht's action. He could call for all Germans on both sides of the border to stay home from work for this day (I recall that Berlin trade union proposed a fifteen minute work stoppage, and RIAS refused even to carry their appeal).

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[redacted] thinks this holiday would be widely observed in GDR; it is a form of passive resistance which might have considerable psychological impact. I also doubt that it would be so provocative as to create major risks.

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U.S. ARCHIVIST (NLK-78-662)
BY [initials] NARS DATE 9/10/81

RWK

cc: WWR ✓

SECRET

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